

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

OES-02 OMB-01 SS-15 SP-02 L-01 AID-05 IGA-01 MED-02

HEW-02 PA-01 PRS-01 /071 W
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R 030730Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0183

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6946

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AF

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES

REF: STATE 233134, KABUL 6836

1. EMBASSY KABUL SEES A LIMITED BUT IMPORTANT U.S. ROLE IN THE NARCOTICS SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN. IT IS BEST TO OBSERVE IN THE BEGINNING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN 71&9-) HAS ONLY RECENTLY (ESPECIALLY SINCE THE JULY 1973 COUP WHICH BROUGHT IN A REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT) BEGUN TO APPRECIATE THE FULL DANGERS OF NARCOTICS CULTIVATION AND TRADE. IT IS WORTH ADDING HOWEVER THAT EVEN IF THERE WERE ENORMOUS ENTHUSIASM AMONG GOVERNMENT MEMBERS FOR A NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM IT WILL BE SOME TIME INDEED BEFORE THE POWER OF THE KABUL GOVERNMENT CAN BE MADE EXTENSIVE ENOUGH AND THE EFFICIENCY OF POLICE FORCES MADE GREAT ENOUGH TO CONTROL THIS SITUATION WITHIN LEVELS OF TOLERANCE SUFFICIENT TO INSURE THAT NO REPEAT NO AFGHAN NARCOTICS MATERIAL FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE AMERICAN MARKET. THIS IS BECAUSE AFGHANISTAN HAS BEEN A FRAGMENTED, DECENTRALIZED COUNTRY FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. THE CONCEPT OF A VIGOROUS CENTRAL GOVERN-
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MENT IS RELATIVELY NEW.

2. NARCOTICS CONTROL IS, BESIDES, A SUBJECT ABOUT WHICH THE AFGHANS ARE BASICALLY NOT INTERESTED IN TAKING UP ON A BILATERAL BASIS WITH THE UNITED STATES. DESPITE SOME URGING, FOR EXAMPLE, IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO GAIN FOR THE JUSTICE-DEA ATTACHE AT THE EMBASSY A "CHARTER" WITHIN WHICH HE COULD DIRECT HIS EFFORTS. OUR OFFERS OF TRAINING COURSES FOR NARCOTICS OFFICERS HAVE, SIMILARLY, NOT BEEN TAKEN UP. WE UNDERSTAND THIS AFGHAN RELUCTANCE, BASED UPON SENSITIVITIES RISING FROM HISTORICAL REALITIES, RELATING TO SUSPICION OF OUTSIDERS, "INTERFERENCE", THOUGH WE CAN HARDLY FAIL TO HOPE THAT THESE ATTITUDES WILL CHANGE.

3. AFGHANS HAVE HOZRVER SHOWN WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS NARCOTICS MATTERS WITH UNITEDNJDCTIONS ORGANIZATIONS. IN KABUL SPECIFICALLY THE GOA HAS AGREED TO WORK WITH THE UN FUND FOR DRUG ABUSE CONTROL (UF DAC), AND IT IS IN COOPERATION WITH THIS AGENCY THAT WE FEEL U.S. EFFORTS CAN BEST BE EXPENDED. A MEASURE OF POSITIVE COOPERATION HAS ALREADY BEEN ATTAINED IN AFGHAN ACCEPTANCE OF A POLICE ADVISOR ON NARCOTICS AFFAIRS SUPPLIED UNDER UNFDAC AUSPICES, AND AS THE KABUL REFTEL REPORTS THE UN PROGRAM ALREADY HAS PRODUCED VISIBLE RESULTS. AGAIN, WHERE U.S. (AS CONTRASTED WITH UN) COOPERATION MIGHT BECOME VISIBLE, HOWEVER, PROGRAMS HAVE NOT BEEN FRUITFUL. THUS AN OFFER TO FUND AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE EMBASSY'S DEA OFFICER THROUGH THE UN ENFORCEMENT ADVISOR HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED. WE ARE LEFT AGAIN WITH THE CONCLUSION THAT FOR THESRESENT DIRECT U.S. INVOLVEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT WILL NOT ONLY BE UNHELPFUL, BUT COULD EVEN BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR OVERALL DRUG PREVENTION EFFORTS.

4. THE EMBASSY PLANS TO CONTINUE TALKS BY THE AMBASSADOR AND OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS WITH RANKING AFGHAN OFFICIALS TO REVIEW THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT, IN AN ATTEMPT TO IMPRESS DOWN TO THE WORKING LEVELS OF THE GOA THE U.S. CONCERN FOR EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG ABUSE, DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KABUL06946
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740315-0252
From: KABUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741175/aaaac1xw.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 233134, KABUL 6836
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <21 MAR 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE ON NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES
TAGS: SNAR, AF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005